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SERVING DEFIANCE, ERIE, FULTON, HANCOCK, HENRY, LUCAS, OTTAWA, PAULDING, SANDUSKY, SENECA, WILLIAMS, & WOOD COUNTIES

July 25, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).

## Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development Association (NORED) is a forum aimed at increasing job opportunities and improving quality of life throughout the region. Comprising economic development practitioners and partners spanning Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Sandusky, Seneca, Williams, and Wood Counties, NORED provides professional development programs for its members, advocates for legislative changes to enhance economic development, and implements programs to market the benefits of locating in Northwest Ohio.

Regardless of how you describe it - the Digital Era, the Information Age, or some other such term - we are living at a time when fast and accurate sharing and processing of data are essential to success in business and in life. Effective use of the Internet and electronic commerce in dealing with customers and suppliers is important to practically every business; for many, it is absolutely essential.

Two recent technological developments have allowed businesses and consumers to further leverage the power of the Internet. Wireless broadband services and mobile communications devices enable us to access the Internet while on the go a tremendous advantage, particularly for business people whose work takes them away from the office.

The potential for innovation, economic development, and job growth from wireless broadband access to the Internet is enormous. But in order to take full advantage of those opportunities, businesses and individuals throughout the nation must have easily available wireless broadband service. Sad to say, we have a way to go before we achieve that goal.

An opportunity for greatly expanding the availability of next-generation wireless broadband service is before the Commission in the docket referenced above. Permitting AT&T and T-Mobile to merge would put the pieces in place for a large investment of private capital to enhance and expand the companies' combined networks.

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The result, after seven years and \$8 billion in additional capital spending, would be a network that would offer 4<sup>th</sup> Generation Long Term Evolution mobile broadband to 55 million more Americans than would have been the case without the merger. The network would make mobile broadband available to 97 percent of Americans.

I can assure you and the other commissioners that such ubiquity of 4<sup>th</sup> Generation wireless broadband service would be a tremendous boost for economic development in Northwest Ohio and throughout the country.

Please allow this merger to go forward.

Sincerely,

Kay E. Reiter President

Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development Association 7715 Gillcrest Road Sylvania, Ohio 43560

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn Commissioner Michael Copps Commissioner Robert McDowell